CLAIMS

What I claim is:

- 1 1. (original) A method for recovering oil from a pattern element of a subterranean
- 2 formation, the formation having an upper boundary and a lower boundary, the pattern element
- 3 having a lower completion interval for fluid injection and a higher vertically displaced
- 4 completion interval for fluid injection and a completion interval for fluid production, comprising:
- 5 injecting a gas into the lower completion interval at a first selected gas injection
- 6 rate for a selected time;
- 7 injecting water into the higher completion interval at a first selected water
- 8 injection rate for a selected time;
- 9 decreasing water injection rate into the higher completion interval for fluid
- 10 injection for a selected time, while maintaining a selected gas injection rate into the lower
- completion interval for fluid injection, so as to increase rate of gas flow upward in the formation
- 12 and form a mixed flow zone in the formation between the lower completion interval and the
- 13 upper boundary of the formation, then continuing water injection into the higher completion
- 14 interval for fluid injection; and
- recovering oil from the completion interval for fluid production.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lower completion interval is in
- 2 proximity to the lower boundary of the formation.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the higher completion interval is in
- 2 proximity to the upper boundary of the formation.
- 1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of injecting water at a
- 2 selected WAG ratio into the lower completion interval for a selected time.
- 1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of injecting gas at a
- 2 selected WAG ratio into the higher completion interval.
- 1 6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the WAG ratio is obtained by setting the
- 2 second selected water injection rate at zero for a selected time.
- 1 7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising adding a tracer to the gas or
- 2 water before injection.

- 1 8. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising adding a surfactant to the gas or
- 2 water before injection.
- 1 9. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, after a selected time, forming
- 2 vertically displaced completion intervals for fluid injection in place of the completion interval for
- 3 production and reversing the direction of flow through the pattern element by injecting gas and
- 4 water into the vertically displaced completion intervals for fluid injection and converting one of
- 5 the completion intervals for injection into a completion interval for production.
- 1 10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the gas is selected from gases consisting
- 2 of natural gas, natural gas containing heavier hydrocarbons, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, flue gas
- 3 and mixtures thereof.
- 1 11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the gas is miscible with the oil.
- 1 12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lower completion interval and the
- 2 upper completion interval are formed in vertically displaced horizontal wellbores through the
- 3 formation.
- 1 13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lower completion interval and the
- 2 upper completion interval are formed by perforated intervals in a vertical wellbore.
- 1 14. (original) A method for recovering oil from a pattern element of a subterranean
- 2 formation, the formation having an upper boundary and a lower boundary, the pattern element
- 3 having a lower completion interval for fluid injection and a higher vertically displaced
- 4 completion interval for fluid injection and a completion interval for fluid production, comprising:
- 5 using predicted rock and fluid properties in the pattern element, conducting computer
- 6 simulations of flow of reservoir fluids and injected gas and water in the pattern element, the
- 7 injected gas and water being injected at selected rates for selected times, the gas being injected
- 8 into the lower completion interval for fluid injection and the water being injected into the higher
- 9 vertically displaced completion interval for fluid injection and fluid being produced from the
- 10 completion interval for fluid production;
- selecting the rate and times of gas injection and water injection based on the computer
- 12 simulations to predict a WAG ratio to be injected into the upper completion interval so as to
- 13 cause gas injected into the lower completion interval for fluid injection to flow to the upper
- boundary of the formation and the completion interval for fluid production at about the same
- 15 time;

- injecting gas and water at selected rates to cause the predicted WAG ratio; and
- 17 recovering oil from the completion interval for fluid production.
- 1 15. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising adding a tracer to the gas
- 2 before injection, measuring the amount of tracer in a fluid sample from the formation and
- 3 selecting a revised rate and time of injection of water or gas based on the amount of tracer in the
- 4 fluid sample.
- 1 16. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising adding a surfactant to the gas
- 2 or water before injection.
- 1 17. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the gas is selected from gases consisting
- 2 of natural gas, natural gas containing heavier hydrocarbons, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, flue gas
- 3 and mixtures thereof.
- 1 18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the gas is miscible with the oil.
- 1 19. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the lower completion interval and the
- 2 upper completion interval are formed in vertically displaced horizontal wellbores through the
- 3 formation.
- 1 20. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the lower completion interval and the
- 2 upper completion interval are formed by perforated intervals in a vertical wellbore.